

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

15. (Amended Once) A method of identifying a retrovirus capable of transferring its nucleic acid to a host cell, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) administering to a population of host cells, a random display library of viruses comprising a plurality of viruses, wherein each virus differs in relation to other viruses of the plurality as to an amino acid sequence of a receptor binding domain of an exterior protein, wherein said exterior protein is an envelope (Env) protein;

(2) inoculating said population of host cells with said random display library of viruses to infect said population of host cells with said random display library of viruses, wherein infection of said host cell population leads to transfer of retroviral nucleic acid to said host cell population; and

(3) identifying a retrovirus that transferred its nucleic acid to one of said host cells.

16. (Amended Once) The method of Claim 15 wherein each virus of the plurality encodes an Env protein of the virus and a cell-selection marker on the same nucleic acid molecule and wherein step (3) can be achieved by selection for virus-infected cells expressing the cell-selection marker.

19. (Amended Once) A method of Claim 15 wherein the plurality of retroviruses is more than 1×10^5 .

26. (Amended Once) A retrovirus identified using the method of claim 15.

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Please add the following new claim:

31. (Newly presented) A method of identifying a retrovirus capable of transferring its nucleic acid to a host cell, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) administering to a population of host cells, a random display library of viruses comprising a plurality of viruses, wherein each virus differs in relation to other viruses of the

plurality as to an amino acid sequence of an exterior protein, wherein said exterior protein is an envelope (Env) protein and wherein a divergent amino acid sequence of a receptor binding domain of the Env protein is in the variable region A (VRA) or variable region B (VRB) of the Env protein;

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(2) inoculating said population of host cells with said random display library of viruses to infect said population of host cells with said random display library of viruses, wherein infection of said host cell population leads to transfer of retroviral nucleic acid to said host cell population; and

(3) identifying a retrovirus that transferred its nucleic acid to one of said host cells.
